(g) and (h) No, Sir. The issue of notification of Petroleum Products is a policy issue and Government would consider and decide on this matter in due course of time.

Offshore pipeline project

2435. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently held discussions with Turkish and Israeli Governments to work out the technical details of an offshore pipeline project to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the feasibility study of the proposed pipeline project have been worked out; and

(d) if so, the time by which such feasibility study is likely to be completed and likely benefit accrued to Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. India, Turkey and Israel discussed the issues relating to a pipeline project from Turkey to India through Israel in a tripartite meeting organized by Government of Turkey on 11.09.2008 in Ankara. This project is still at conceptual stage and the feasibility study of the project is yet to be worked out.

Supply of domestic gas in Jharkhand

2436. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the households having LPG connections is less than 12 per cent in Jharkhand State while average is 25 per cent in our country;

(b) if so, the action plan to increase these connections alongwith time limit set to achieve this target;

(c) the criteria for selection of cities for piped natural gas supply;

(d) whether fund has been allotted for piped natural gas for residential colonies in the cities of Jharkhand during the current financial year; and

(e) the future plan for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As on 01.12.2008, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are serving 1042.2 lakh LPG customers, covering 53.8% estimated population of the country as per 2001 Census, out of which 11.59 lakh LPG customers are being served through 143 LPG distributorships in the State of Jharkhand, covering 24.2% estimated population. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 1340 locations in the country including 17 in the State of Jharkhand for setting up of LPG distributorships, mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The advertisements for all the locations have been released and selection for the same is in progress as per policy.

The enrolment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. OMCs have reported that at present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers. OMCs have further reported that they have released 0.75 lakh new LPG connections in the State of Jharkhand during the period April-November, 2008.

(c) to (e) City Gas Distribution projects have not been implemented in the State of Jharkhand, because, as of now, there is no natural gas pipeline available in the State.

In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'. Providing of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) facilities depends upon availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

Picking up oil assets in abroad

2437. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making efforts to pick up stake in assets of oil majors in other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) the revenue likely to be earned from each country;

(d) whether MoUs have been signed during the last four years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India's strategy for securing energy security has been incorporated in "Hydrocarbon Vision-2025" a document of Government of India, which includes investment in equity oil abroad. Presently, oil PSUs, namely ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), Oil India Limited (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Gail (India) Limited have presence in 20 overseas countries, *viz.* Russia, Sudan, Vietnam, Iran, Libya, Syria, Myanmar, Iraq, Egypt, Cuba, Nigeria, Sao-Tome-Principe Joint Development Zone, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Turkmenistan, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Yemen and Australia. The revenue likely to be earned from producing fields abroad during 2008-09 is approximately Rs. 14595.05 Crore.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) have been signed by National Oil Companies during the last four years with various Oil companies based in Bangladesh, Korea, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, Nigeria, Iran, China, Muritius, Japan, Ecuador, Brazil, Indonesia, Kuwait.